

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending and stand rejected.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the remarks made herein.

The examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show the verbal label corresponding to reference numbers described in the specification. In response, Applicant submits herewith replacement drawings for Figures 1 and 2 in Appendix A. Original versions of the drawings are shown in Appendix B.

With the submission of the replacement figures, applicant believes that the reason for the examiner's objection to the drawings has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

The specification has been objected to for lacking section headings. Applicant respectfully submits that 37 CFR §1.77(b) discloses a *suggested* format for the arrangement of the disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that the present disclosure follows the suggested format where applicable. With regard to 37 CFR§1.77(c), which was not cited in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that section headings are suggested but not required, as 37 CFR §1.77(c) clearly states the sections defined in paragraphs (b) (1) through (b) (11) “should” be preceded by a section heading. Applicants respectfully decline at this time to amend the disclosure to include same.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gong (USP No. 6,181,687 B1).

Amended Claim 1 recites;

1. A multiple access communication system comprising at least one primary station and a plurality of secondary stations, the primary station and the secondary stations being interconnected via a network, the secondary stations being arranged for transmitting return signals in a return signal frequency band to the primary

station, the secondary stations being further arranged for transmitting the return signals in only a part of the return signal frequency band containing relatively little noise, wherein the network comprises *means for mapping a first set of the return signals of the plurality of secondary stations onto a first portion of the return signal frequency band and mapping a second set of return signals of the plurality of secondary stations onto a second portion of the return signal frequency band.*

Bisdikian, as understood by applicant, teaches a communication system using tree-search or stack contention-resolution algorithms in hybrid MAC protocols by CaTV stations to resolve message transmission collisions. Bisdikian uses upstream transmission signals that typically occupy frequency bands in the range of 5 MHz to 42 MHz, see col. 2, lines 9-13. During cable-modem power-on, the H/E 101 assigns to each cable-modem 104 a specific upstream channel, where they attempt all their message transmissions..., see col. 2, lines 19-22. Thus, Bisdikian teaches a specific upstream channel rather than a grouping into sets the return signals of the plurality of secondary stations onto a first portion of the return signal frequency band and mapping a second set of return signals of the plurality of secondary stations onto a second portion of the return signal frequency band.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element recited therein is expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Bisdikian cannot be said to anticipate the present invention, because Bisdikian fails to disclose each and every element recited. As shown, Bisdikian fails to disclose "means for mapping a first set of the return signals of the plurality of secondary stations onto a first portion of the return signal frequency band and mapping a second set of return signals of the plurality of secondary stations onto a second portion of the return signal frequency band," as is recited in Claim 1.

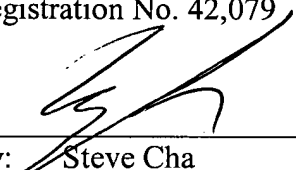
Having shown that Bisdikian fails to disclose each and every element claimed, applicant submits that the reason for the examiner's rejection of the claim has been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to claims 2-6, these claims depend from amended independent claim 1, which has been shown to be allowable in view of the cited reference. Accordingly, claims 2-6 are also allowable by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Piotrowski
Registration No. 42,079

By: 
Steve Cha
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,069

Date: January 6, 2005

Mail all correspondence to:

Dan Piotrowski, Registration No. 42,079
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Phone: (914) 333-9624
Fax: (914) 332-0615

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Steve Cha, Reg. No. 44,069
(Name of Registered Rep.)


(Signature and Date)